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Minutes of the 810th Provincial Council Meeting

March 29-30, Hales Corners, Wis.

PRESENT: Fr. Thomas Cassidy, provincial superior; Fr. Byron Haaland, Fr. Ed Kilianski, Fr. Jack Kurps, Br. Duane Lemke and Fr. Bill Pitcavage councilors; Dn. David Nagel, treasurer; Br. Frank Presto, provincial secretary; and Mary Gorski, minutes. NOTE: Fr. Pitcavage was reinstated to the Provincial Council at the beginning of the second day of meetings; he was also named vice provincial.

I. Minutes — Councilors acknowledged that they had voted to approve the minutes of the 809th council meeting during a prior conference call.

II. Personal Sharing — Participants took a few minutes to update each other on themselves and their ministries. Some items of note:

- Fr. Cassidy took part in two donor luncheons, one with the SHSM Development Office and one with St. Joseph's Indian School. Next week he and Fr. Bill Pitcavage will be going to Fr. Mark Mastin's graduation from basic training.
- Br. Lemke noted that the past week at the Dehon Formation Community was challenging with the departure of one of the candidates.
- Fr. Pitcavage was one of several SCJs who attended the funeral of Mrs. DiLeo (Fr. Richard DiLeo's mother). He said that it was a very good gathering. He also noted that he gave the First Friday reflection in Chicago and enjoyed spending time with the community.
- Fr. Kilianski recently completed a vacation in Mexico, which he continues to visit in order to improve his Spanish skills.
- Fr. Haaland gave in-services in Mississippi and in South Dakota. In South Dakota, he did a presentation with high school students and found that they had a good knowledge of their faith and of Fr. Dehon. He will do the First Friday presentation at the Dehon Formation Community in April.
- Fr. Kurps gave the Jesuit Training Session to Fr. Quang Nguyen in California and said that it went well.
- Dn. Nagel said that contracts have been signed with the new developer and work is just getting underway to complete the SCJ section of Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake. The owner's representative has been very helpful during the time of transition from Carstensen Construction to Horizon. Dn. Nagel added that he recently visited his oncologist who said that he continues to be cancer free.

III. Visioning: Continued Discussion of Leadership — As it has in has in recent meetings, the council will take time for discussion of a theme or area of concern. The purpose of this is not to arrive at conclusions or decisions but to discuss topics at a deeper level. In March,

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the council reflected on the spring coordinators/local superiors meeting, as well as leadership and community living. The following comments are paraphrased.

A. Coordinators/Local Superiors Meeting — Councils gave feedback on their experience of the meeting.

- The meeting was worthwhile; I'm glad we had it.
- I was struck by the hesitation expressed by some coordinators to deal with concerns, especially regarding issues with members of the local community.
- Several coordinators seemed to be seeking more information on what their role is and how to do it.
- Coordinators are looking for help in dealing with difficult situations and/or people.
- We need to talk more about what it means to be in community.
- When the coordinators gathered twice a year it served several purposes: 1) an opportunity for provincial administration to share information with local coordinators, 2) a time for local leadership to dialogue with provincial administration, and 3) an "in-service" type of presentation. It was a time for local coordinators to develop the tools needed for leadership. Perhaps as a result of going without the meetings coordinators no longer know how to use, or no longer feel comfortable using the tools of leadership.
- Previous coordinators meetings lasted two to three days and included staff reports, animation, time for questions and answers with provincial administration, and then a time for general sharing. We need more than one-and-a-half days for these meetings, but this was a start.
- Although about half of the group seemed to think meeting once a year would be sufficient, initially it would be better to meet every six months. More frequent meetings would help to reinforce the role of the coordinator; help to empower the role.
- I was disappointed that the coordinators meeting didn't do more to give coordinators the tools they need to deal with people locally. I went to the meeting looking for tools. It is easier to hand off difficult issues to the provincial superior. Many coordinators will keep doing that unless taught how to address difficult situations on the local level.
- Participants seemed to appreciate the conversations that took place during the meeting.
- I had hoped that we would discuss the terms "coordinator" and "superior."

B. Developing Local Leadership, Enhancing Local Communities — Councilors talked about what needs to be done on the local level to enhance leadership.

- Local leadership needs to be empowered by the community. This is why ritual is important. A ritual is needed for the installation of local leadership. A ritual invites God's grace and will to be a part of the leadership process. Without ritual the role of coordinator is merely a job, not a vocation.
- There are unclear expectations of coordinators.
- The word "coordinator" is a weak term. People had more of a sense of what "superior" meant.
- A job description or list of expectations needs to be developed for local coordinators. It defines the role and gives a basis for accountability – both for the coordinator and for the local community. Leadership involves the whole community, not just the coordinator.
- We want to develop relationships, but relationships require expectations. Accountability means being faithful to those expectations. Expectations need to be shared and acknowledged. Some communities used to start the year by discussing expectations and then agreeing to those which the community would adhere to. What do people want of the community and of leadership and what does the leadership want of the community members?

- There needs to be a conversation of expectations both on the local level and on the province level. If just on the local level, expectations might simply be a negotiation of how a group of men lives together not as a religious community, but as roommates. There should be some expectations that are common to all local communities in the province; expectations of being an SCJ living in a community.
- How do we as provincial leadership encourage “conversion” to community?
- If a local coordinator does not call for community meetings, the community should then call the coordinator to task. Community life is the responsibility of local leadership and the full community.
- How do we enhance the pastoral role of leadership? What does it mean to be a “pastor” to a community? Is the coordinator a good shepherd or an administrator?
- Different people have different ideas of what it means to be a “good religious.” Some think it revolves around showing up for prayer, but how one acts toward others is as significant, if not more so.
- Our society is very “self-centered.” We are products of that society which is not necessarily conducive to religious life.
- How can a local community better discern leadership?

C. “Problem” Members of the Community.

- Much time can be spent on a single “problem” member of the community at the expense of the others. How does a coordinator deal with a “broken” member of the community who doesn’t want to be “fixed?”
- It is frustrating when those within a community do not forgive. Some are better at forgiveness with those outside of the community rather than with fellow SCJs. Though, the same can be said for some families.
- Expectations run higher within families, and likewise, within religious communities. Thus, the hurts can run much more deeply.
- Leadership, and the community, sometimes needs to “move on” even if there is a member of the community who does not want to.
- When the province had larger communities it was easier to absorb a difficult person. Now, when there might only be a few people in a community a problem person has a greater impact.
- There needs to be consequences when an SCJ refuses to take part in the life of the community. If one person can do what he wants without consequence, what is the incentive for others to make the effort to live as a community? Do we lower our expectations of community life by allowing “difficult” people to do what they want?

D. What next?

- The conversations that took place at the March coordinators meeting need to be shared with the province. Should the report from the meeting be sent to the membership? If it is sent, the discussion topic or questions should appear above each session’s statements. Also, Fr. Cassidy’s letter to coordinators should go with the text.
- Should the information from the coordinators meeting be processed in some way on the local level? If so, how?
- Could local communities be asked to discuss the qualities they think essential for good community life, and then the qualities needed for leadership? From that, could they then define how their community would manifest those qualities?
- Sometimes it seems that local communities are asked by the provincial administration to discuss a number of things. This can take a lot of time; time away from discussion of local concerns. Other councilors said that it depends on the community. Some communities would benefit from discussion topics.

E. Actions — Br. Presto will look for the ritual that had been used when a local coordinator was installed.

IV. Finance

A. Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake — Contracts have been signed with Horizon Construction for the completion of Stage 1 of SHML. Work is resuming on the site. A letter of intent has been signed with Horizon regarding Stage 2. It is hoped that the cost of Stage 2 can be lower than the original bid.

It is hoped that Stage 1 can be finished in early June. Soon after, Horizon would like to demolish Villa Maria. Applications are being made for the permits to do so. Tentatively, Stage 2 should be completed in September, 2012. It will have 65 units, the chapel and a common area.

B. Procedural Audits of Growth Pool and Charitable Gift Annuity Pool — The procedural audit for the two pools has been completed. The audit reviews the two pools and provides reports to participants who are a part of them. Copies of the audits were made available to the council.

The council voted to accept the audit reports as presented.

C. Lay Employee Pension Trust Pool — The money held by Merrill Lynch for the Lay Employee Pension Trust is being liquidated and the cash is being transferred to the Principal Financial Group. The new manager at Principal has been in contact with the Provincial Treasurer's Office regarding the set-up of the investment program.

D. Province Finance Commission — The Finance Commission will meet April 5-6 to review budgets. All budgets have been received by the Provincial Treasurer's Office.

V. Administration

A. Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec — Fr. Morawiec has been assigned to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Houston. He will go to Spain to improve his Spanish. It was decided that he would go to Spain, rather than Mexico, because it would be easier with his European passport. He will now begin the process of applying for an R-1 visa.

B. Mississippi — The council reviewed feedback from the membership regarding Bishop Joseph Latino's request that the SCJs take over ministry for parishes based in the Mississippi Delta, in and around Clarksdale. Most of the responses were positive, though there is concern about the province's ability to staff the Delta parishes along with other province commitments. Fr. Cassidy said that if the province assumed responsibility, it could only make a commitment for six years.

Fr. Kurps and Fr. Bob Tucker visited the Delta parishes and shared with the council statistical information on them. St. Elizabeth in Clarksdale is the largest of the four parishes. There is a grade school, and a sizeable group of Spanish-speaking Catholics. Immaculate Conception in Clarksdale is historically African-American. St. Mary in Shelby has an aging population of English-speaking Catholics, and now a growing population of non-registered Spanish-speaking people. St. Gabriel in Mound Bayou is in the oldest chartered African American town in Mississippi. It is a very poor area. The Sisters of Mercy have turned a former Catholic School into a social service center. The parishes serve an economically poor area of Mississippi.

Councilors discussed ministry at the Delta parishes. Several suggested that being with the poor, especially African-American poor, is what the SCJs are called to do. The province no longer has a major ministry to African Americans.

The Diocese of Jackson is in great need of assistance. It is a poor diocese with very limited personnel. It has also had a very strong and positive relationship with the Priests of the Sacred Heart, respecting the unique gifts that a religious community brings to a diocese. Several councilors said that it is important that the province assist the diocese as it is able, even though it will be a strain on the province.

It was noted that new ministry gives life to the province. However, the availability of personnel is a real concern. Eventually, the province will need to relinquish some of its obligations. Keeping that in mind, is it appropriate to take on something new? But then again, would a ministry option such as this with the poor be attractive to potential vocations?

The council will continue to discern the bishop's request regarding the Delta parishes and make a decision at the May meeting.

- C. Praesidium Reaccreditation — Br. Presto reported that the reaccreditation team was at the Provincialate Offices in March, during which time Praesidium representatives reviewed province policies and interviewed a number of people. An on-site visit was to be made to Mississippi, but an ice storm cancelled flight plans. Phone interviews were done instead.

There are 25 accreditation standards with 79 requirements against which the province was evaluated. The preliminary report indicated only five minor concerns.

Minor concerns include 1) a lack of a policy for appropriate behaviors with minors who are family, 2) a lack of an acknowledgement sheet that members of the province have received policies and understand their implications, 3) the need for something in writing to give information to those who have identified themselves as victims; 4) the need for safety plan supervisors to document regular conversations with those under their responsibility.

To address one of the concerns, the council voted to approve a policy on Appropriate Behaviors with Minors — Members of the Family.

Councilors reviewed a draft of text to meet the requirement for written information for those who have come forward as victims. The council voted to endorse the draft knowing that it can be amended as needed.

Br. Frank noted that an acknowledgement sheet for members to sign regarding the policies they have received has been prepared.

- D. Dn. Duy Nguyen — The council voted to approve Dn. Duy Nguyen's request for ordination to the priesthood. He is scheduled to be ordained at Sacred Heart Monastery by Bishop Joseph Potocnak on June 11.

- E. Fr. Bill Pitcavage Reinstated — As noted at the February council meeting, the Milwaukee Area Review Board (MARB) agreed with Fr. Cassidy's judgment that the allegations against Frs. Tom Lind and Bill Pitcavage were not established as credible. Fr. Cassidy restored both men to public ministry.

On the second day of the council meeting Fr. Cassidy received a letter from Fr. José Ornelas Carvalho, superior general, in which Fr. General informed him that the General Council reinstated Fr. Pitcavage as first councilor on the U.S. Provincial Council.

Fr. Ed Kilianski resigned from his position as vice provincial (he continues to serve on the Provincial Council). The council then voted to name Fr. Pitcavage as vice provincial.

- F. Juan Carlos Charum Monzon — Mr. Monzon has left the formation program.

- G. Province Assembly — There will be a variety of topics addressed at the July 11-14 province assembly. Fr. John van den Hengel of the General Council is to be with the assembly on Tuesday, July 12. Mary Gorski is to send an email to the province reminding the membership that the assembly starts on July 11 at 4:30 p.m. with the province jubilees and goes through Thursday, July 14. It will end mid-day Thursday, though a specific end time has not yet been determined. An agenda for the assembly will be sent to SCJs following the May council meeting.

- H. Fr. Tom Fix — It was noted that Fr. Tom Fix will celebrate his 60th anniversary of profession this year. He is a member of the Indonesian Province originally from the United States. He will be invited to be a part of the jubilee celebration in the U.S. Province.

- I. Province Plan Updates

1. Justice, Peace and Reconciliation — The JP&R Commission met by conference call the previous week. Members are excited to have time at the province assembly. There will be an in-person meeting on June 6 to finalize plans for the J&P section of the assembly. The committee will also review the grant application process for next year.
2. Spirituality — Fr. Jim Schroeder is working on a lay version of "This Day of God." It will most likely be produced and utilized by the Province Development Office and Sacred Heart Southern Missions. Besides using it as a book, prayers

from it could be used in other office media, such as the websites.

It was noted that the prayer book would also be useful for SCJ parishes and that a Spanish translation would be well-used.

Fr. Haaland has met with Fr. Joe Dean to begin preparing the province retreat that will take place in Florida November 14-16.

3. Ministries — Fr. Kurps met with Mike Tyrell regarding the Dehonian Family. It is hoped that the Dehonian Family Ad Hoc Committee can be revitalized and meet again soon. There have been some good in-service experiences regarding the SCJs and Fr. Dehon in both South Dakota and Mississippi. Fr. Kurps suggested that Fr. Haaland do presentations at Mississippi parishes related to SCJ spirituality. Fr. Haaland is open to doing this. Fr. Kurps will speak to Fr. Bob Tucker about it.
4. Missions — Dn. Nagel, as mission procurator, has been in communication with SCJs in South Africa, Vietnam and India regarding financial needs for the upcoming fiscal year. He has not heard yet from Congo or the Philippines.

The council voted to appoint Fr. Bill Pitcavage as province mission secretary.

- J. Rule of Life — Br. Lemke asked if the Rule of Life could be reprinted; the formation house is out of extra copies. Br. Presto has been told by the General Curia that the province should not reprint the Rule until the revised version is made available. Until then, photocopied versions will be used.
- K. Succession Plan for SHST President-Rector — Fr. Cassidy informed the SHST board that a plan will soon be in place for the succession of the SHST president-rector. Fr. Jan de Jong will retire from the position at the end of the 2011-12 academic year.
- L. Calendar
 1. C-POSH — On the afternoon of August 31 representatives from the C-POSH board will meet with the council.
 2. Election Assembly — Sacred Heart School of Theology's calendar is already beginning to fill for 2013. The province has been asked by SHST to set a date for the next election assembly. The next election assembly will be the week of June 3, 2013, at SHST.
 3. Conference Call — A conference call to review these minutes will be held on April 6 at 11 a.m. (central).

CALENDAR

May 9-11:	Provincial Council meeting (budgets)
May 21:	Dn. Greg Schill's priesthood ordination (San Antonio)
May 23-24:	North American councils meeting (Chicago)
June 11:	Dn. Duy Nguyen's priesthood ordination (Sacred Heart Monastery)
Week of July 11:	Province Assembly, Hales Corners, Wis.
July 11:	Province Jubilees
August 30-31:	Provincial Council meeting
October 4-5:	Provincial Council meeting
November 14-16:	SCJ Retreat, Pinellas Park
December 14-15:	Provincial Council meeting

UPDATES

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

In March the updated Province Personnel Directory was sent to SCJs. The following are corrections and/or updates to the directory:

FR. PAUL GRIZZELLE REID'S email is paulgrizzellereid@me.com

FR. RICHARD JOHNSTON'S email is rv12rjr@att.net

BR. RAY KOZUCH'S work e-mail is brrayscj@wi.rr.com

FR. RICHARD MACDONALD'S cell phone is 956-357-5390

FR. PETER MASTROBUONO'S e-mail is pmastrobuono@olghouston.org

FR. JIM SCHIFANO'S office number is 414-409-4831

DN. GREG SCHILL is a member of the 37th Street Community, not at the Dehon Formation Community in Chicago.

FR. STEVE WIESE'S room number at the Congregational Home has changed to 2105.

Also, JUAN CARLOS CHARUM MONZON has left the formation program and returned to his native Colombia. Please keep him in prayer as he discerns new directions in his life. You can reach him by email at jucachamo@hotmail.com.

NECROLOGY

FR. JOAQUIN SOLO UTERGA, a member of the Spanish Province, died on March 16. He was born in 1922, professed in 1939 and ordained in 1947.

FR. THOMAS AQUINAS BHAKTI DWI PRABOWO, of the Indonesian Province, died March 23. He was born in 1949, professed in 1976 and ordained in 1979.

FR. EMILIO LUIGI CRISSETIG, a member of the North Italian Province, died March 3. He was born in 1926, professed in 1944 and ordained in 1952.

FR. ANTONI CZAJA, a member of the Polish Province, who March 3. He was born in 1937, professed in 1953 and was ordained in 1960.

FR. FRANÇOIS BESCOND, a member of the Franco-European Province, died March 5. He was born in 1937, professed in 1957 and ordained in 1965.

